

Safety On The Road

Make A Safe Pass

Hurting at high speed down the wrong lane of a two-lane highway, not sure if there is traffic in the on-coming lane around the next curve – that's passing at its worst!

Judging by the frequency of head-on crashes and close calls, many drivers pull out to pass before they are sure it is safe to do so.

Here are some guidelines for safe passing, particularly on two-lane roads:

- Do not pass unless it is necessary.
- Determine if it is safe and legal to pass. You must have both the time and distance to pass safely.
- Look for oncoming traffic.
- Before passing, check your rear view mirrors and look over your shoulder into the blind spot at the rear left of your vehicle. These checks are to ensure no one is attempting to pass you.
- Watch the vehicle ahead of you to be sure it is not about to turn.
- Determine if you have enough power to pass, especially if you are going uphill.
- Use your turn signal to indicate you are pulling out around the vehicle in front of you. While you are passing, turn off your turn signal, and then signal your return to your own lane. Remember to switch the signal off again after you have settled in your original lane.
- Begin to speed up to the legal speed before you pull out.
- Pull back in when you can see the front of the vehicle you are passing, or both of its headlights, in your rear view mirror. Be careful not to overcorrect your steering when you return to your original lane.
- Don't tailgate prior to passing or if you do not intend to pass. If you choose not to pass a slow vehicle, leave space ahead of you for another vehicle to leapfrog into the space rather than passing a line of vehicles.
- Do not pass when prohibited by signs or by road markings such as a solid line on your side of the center line. Don't try to second-guess these passing restrictions because there may be a hazardous situation ahead you can't see.
- Do not pass at an intersection. When you are turning, check on both sides for vehicles passing you.
- Do not pass on curves, hills, bridges, tunnels, overpasses or railway crossings.
- Do not pass in any location where it would be unsafe because of limited visibility or other conditions.
- Never speed up to keep another vehicle from passing.
- While you are being passed, stay to the right in your lane. Be aware of the location of the passing vehicle and all traffic in the area. Help the other driver to pass and return to the original lane safely.
- Slow down and let the passing vehicle in if there is a risk of an accident.

A vehicle passing in the on-coming traffic lane is in an extremely vulnerable situation. Do not pass unless you are sure you can do so safely – with room to spare!

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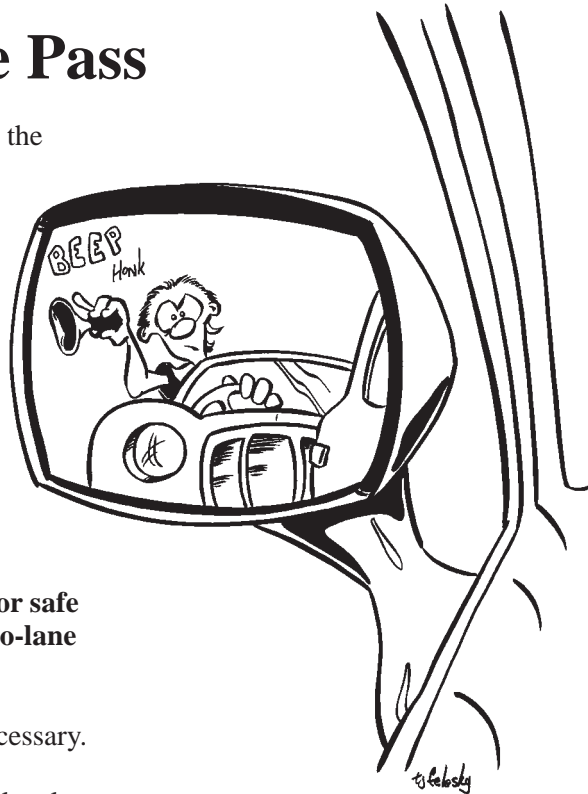
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